

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing human chondrocytes, wherein said method comprises:

co-culturing chondrocytes together with perichondrium, wherein said chondrocytes are obtained from a cartilage having said perichondrium, and wherein no ~~exogenous~~ non-human animal feeder cells are present in the culture.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cartilage is auricular cartilage.

3. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising :  
seeding the cultured chondrocytes in a monolayer or multilayer at least once ; and  
culturing the chondrocytes until a chondrocyte mass forms.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 , further comprising:  
seeding the cultured chondrocytes in a monolayer or multilayer at least once ; and  
culturing the chondrocytes until a chondrocyte mass forms.

5-6. (Cancelled)